

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A seat assembly (10) comprising:

a seat cushion (12) configured for supporting an occupant above a vehicle floor;

a seat back (14) pivotally coupled to the seat cushion (12);

a recliner mechanism (16) operatively coupled between the seat back and the seat cushion for providing selective movement of the seat assembly between a plurality of seating positions with said seat back generally inclined relative to the seat cushion and a stowed position with the seat back in a generally folded flat position overlying the seat cushion;

a riser assembly (20) including a pair of front legs (22) and a pair of rear legs (24), the riser assembly (20) operatively coupled between the seat cushion (12) and the floor of a vehicle for allowing selective movement of the seat assembly between the seating positions and the stowed position;

a riser control rod (34) rotatably supported by the seat cushion and fixedly secured to each of the pair of rear legs; and

a link mechanism (11) operatively coupled between the seat back (14) and the riser control rod for allowing free pivotal movement of the seat back relative to the riser control rod in each of the plurality of seating positions and for automatically rotating the riser control rod to simultaneously pivot each of said pair of front and rear legs relative to the floor in response to pivotal movement of the seat back between the seating positions and the stowed position.

22. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 21 wherein the link mechanism (11) comprises a first arm having a proximal end pivotally coupled to the seat back and an opposite distal end.

23. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 22 wherein the link mechanism (11) further comprises a second arm having a proximal end pivotally coupled to the riser control rod and an opposite distal end pivotally connected to the distal end of the first arm for selectively coupling the seat back to the riser control rod.

24. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 23 wherein the first arm includes a hook portion (55) formed thereon adjacent the distal end of the first arm and link mechanism (11) further comprises a latch arm (60) having a first end pivotally connected to the second arm and a

second end supporting a latch pin for selective engagement with the hook portion to interlock the first and second arms and thereby couple the seat back to the riser control rod.

25. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 24 wherein the link mechanism further includes an abutment pin (59) projecting from the second arm for engaging the first arm to maintain a predetermined angle between the first and second arms.

26. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 25 further including a recliner control rod (18) operatively coupled to the recliner mechanism (16) for actuating the recliner mechanism (16) between locked and unlocked states providing selective movement of the seat assembly between the seating positions and the stowed position.

27. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 26 wherein the riser assembly further includes a link (38) extending between and interconnecting the front and rear legs (22, 30) for providing simultaneous pivotal movement thereof in response to rotation of the riser control rod.

28. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 27 further including a dampener (39) extending between the link (38) and the floor of the vehicle for assisting and controlling movement of the seat assembly (10) between the seating positions and the stowed position.

29. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 28 further including a first lever (40) secured to the seat back and extending radially from the longitudinal axis of the recliner control rod, the first lever having a distal end pivotally connected to the first arm by a pivot pin (52).

30. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 29 further including a second lever (44) secured to the riser control rod and extending radially from the longitudinal axis thereof, the second lever having a distal end pivotally connected to the second arm by a pivot pin (53).

31. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 30 wherein the pair of front legs include an upper end pivotally coupled to the seat cushion and a lower end adapted to be pivotally coupled to the vehicle floor.

32. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 32 wherein the pair of rear legs include an upper end fixedly secured to the riser control rod and a lower end adapted to be pivotally coupled to the vehicle floor.

33. (New) A seat assembly (10) comprising:

a seat cushion (12) configured for supporting an occupant above a vehicle floor;

a seat back (14) pivotally coupled to the seat cushion (12);

a recliner mechanism (16) operatively coupled between the seat back and the seat cushion for providing selective movement of the seat assembly between a plurality of seating positions with said seat back generally reclined relative to the seat cushion and an easy entry position with the seat back pivoted forwardly and partially overlying the seat cushion;

a riser assembly (20) including a pair of front legs (22) and a pair of rear legs (24), the riser assembly (20) operatively coupled between the seat cushion (12) and the floor of a vehicle for allowing selective movement of the seat assembly between the seating positions and the easy entry position;

a riser control rod (34) rotatably supported by the seat cushion and fixedly secured to each of the pair of rear legs; and

a link mechanism (11) operatively coupled between the seat back (14) and the riser control rod for allowing free pivotal movement of the seat back relative to the riser control rod in each of the plurality of seating positions and for automatically rotating the riser control rod to simultaneously pivot each of said pair of front and rear legs relative to the floor in response to pivotal movement of the seat back between the seating positions and the easy entry position.

34. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 33 wherein the link mechanism (11) comprises a first arm having a proximal end pivotally coupled to the seat back and an opposite distal end.

35. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 34 wherein the link mechanism (11) further comprises a second arm having a proximal end pivotally coupled to the riser control rod and an opposite distal end pivotally connected to the distal end of the first arm for selectively coupling the seat back to the riser control rod.

36. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 35 wherein the first arm includes a hook portion (55) formed thereon adjacent the distal end of the first arm and link mechanism (11) further comprises a latch arm (60) having a first end pivotally connected to the second arm and a second end supporting a latch pin for selective engagement with the hook portion to interlock the first and second arms and thereby couple the seat back to the riser control rod.

37. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 36 wherein the link mechanism further includes an abutment pin (59) projecting from the second arm for engaging the first arm to maintain a predetermined angle between the first and second arms.

38. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 37 further including a recliner control rod (18) operatively coupled to the recliner mechanism (16) for actuating the recliner mechanism

(16) between locked and unlocked states providing selective movement of the seat assembly between the seating positions and the stowed position.

39. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 38 wherein the riser assembly further includes a link (38) extending between and interconnecting the front and rear legs (22, 30) for providing simultaneous pivotal movement thereof in response to rotation of the riser control rod.

40. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 39 further including a dampener (39) extending between the link (38) and the floor of the vehicle for assisting and controlling movement of the seat assembly (10) between the seating positions and the stowed position.

41. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 40 further including a first lever (40) secured to the seat back and extending radially from the longitudinal axis of the recliner control rod, the first lever having a distal end pivotally connected to the first arm by a pivot pin (52).

42. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 41 further including a second lever (44) secured to the riser control rod and extending radially from the longitudinal axis thereof, the second lever having a distal end pivotally connected to the second arm by a pivot pin (53).

43. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 42 wherein the pair of front legs include an upper end pivotally coupled to the seat cushion and a lower end adapted to be pivotally coupled to the vehicle floor.

44. (New) The seat assembly (10) of claim 43 wherein the pair of rear legs include an upper end fixedly secured to the riser control rod and a lower end adapted to be pivotally coupled to the vehicle floor.